AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

An image recording apparatus, comprising:

a storage device that stores in a storage medium, image data obtained at one of a plurality of middle stages of image processing for processing signals outputted from an imaging device, the image data obtained at completion of the image processing at each of the plurality of middle stages ~~stage~~ being separately stored and separately identifiable in said storage medium ~~as final image data~~.

Claim 2. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein information is stored in the storage medium with the image data, the information indicating which middle stage the one is.

Claim 3. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the information is added to a file in which the image data is stored.

Claim 4. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the information is stored in a file other than a file in which the image data is stored.

Claim 5. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein one of the following additional data is stored in the storage medium with the information: parameter data for the image processing, processing data used for the image processing, an image processing program for processing the image data, information on the image processing program, and reduced image data of the image data.

Claim 6. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein the additional data is added to a file in which the image data is stored.

Claim 7. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein the additional data is stored in a file other than a file in which the image data is stored.

Claim 8. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising a reduced image data producing device that produces reduced image data at a last stage of the image processing from the signals outputted from the imaging device;

wherein the reduced image data is stored in the storage medium with the image data.

Claim 9. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein image data obtained at a last stage of the image processing is stored in the storage medium.

Claim 10. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising a file naming device that adds a predetermined symbol to a file name of a file in which image data is stored according to a stage at which the image data has been obtained.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended)

An image recording apparatus, comprising:

an imaging device that converts an optical image into signals;

a designating device by which a user designates a desired processing stage out of an image processing sequence ~~in~~ to which a plurality of processing stages are sequentially performed, for processing the signals outputted from said imaging device;

a controlling device that obtains image data at the stage designated by the designating device; and

a storing device that stores the image data in a storage medium.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 11, wherein information is stored in the storage medium with the image data, the information indicating which processing stage the image data has been processed.

Claim 13. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the information is added to a file in which the image data is stored.

Claim 14. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the information is stored in a file other than a file in which the image data is stored.

Claim 15. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein one of the following additional data is stored in the storage medium with the information: parameter data for the image processing, processing data used for the image processing, an image processing program for processing the image data, information on the image processing program, and reduced image data of the image data.

Claim 16. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein the additional data is added to a file in which the image data is stored.

Claim 17. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein the additional data is stored in a file other than a file in which the image data is stored.

Claim 18. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 11, further comprising a reduced image data producing device that produces reduced image data at a last stage of the image processing from the signals outputted from the imaging device;

wherein the reduced image data is stored in the storage medium with the image data.

Claim 19. (Original)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 11, wherein image data obtained at a last stage of the image processing is stored in the storage medium.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended)

The image recording apparatus as defined in claim 11, further comprising a file naming device that adds a predetermined symbol to a file name of a file in which image data is stored according to ~~a~~ each stage at which the image data has been obtained.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended)

An image recording method, comprising:

processing image data obtained at one of a plurality of middle stages of image processing for processing signals outputted from an imaging device;

storing separately in a storage medium, the image data obtained at completion of the image processing at each of the plurality of middle stages ~~stage as final image data~~; and

storing, in the storage medium, information with the image data, the information indicating from which middle stage of the plurality of middle stages the image data was obtained ~~the one is~~.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended)

An image recording method, comprising the steps of:

designating, by a user, a desired processing stage out of an image processing sequence to ~~in~~ which a plurality of processing steps are sequentially performed, for processing signals outputted from an imaging device;

obtaining image data at the stage designated; and

storing the image data and information in a storage medium, the information indicating to which processing stage the image data has been processed.